

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending in the present application. The Examiner's indication that claims 6 and 12-13 are allowed is gratefully acknowledged. The Examiner's reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the above amendment and the following remarks.

Claims 1-5 and 7-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Haneda et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,721,772) (hereinafter "Haneda"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 claims, *inter alia*, "at least one update control means for selectively updating at least one filter coefficient of the at least one adaptive filter *in response to the at least one power value and the at least one error signal*." To anticipate the above-quoted portion of claim 1, the Office Action cites the abstract and col. 9, lines 30-60 of Haneda. The abstract of Haneda states, in relevant part, that "[t]he adaptive filter updates the subband estimated echo path coefficient only when it is supplied with the [adaptive condition] signal ADP." Haneda goes on to describe applying the "adaptation condition signal ADP to all the adaptive filters" (col. 9, lines 32-34). Haneda then describes applying an estimating operation signal ADP-GO to the echo path estimating part so that the echo path estimating part can update the estimated echo path transfer function (see col. 9, lines 41-46).

It is unclear to the Applicant which portion of Haneda the Office Action is citing to anticipate "the at least one update control means." It is also unclear which portion of Haneda the Office Action is citing to anticipate the "at least one filter coefficient of the at least one adaptive filter." Haneda describes only an "estimated echo path coefficient of

the FG/BG filter,” (col. 8, lines 25-31) but not a filter coefficient of the adaptive filter. Nevertheless, even assuming, *arguendo*, that Haneda anticipates “at least one update control means for updating at least one filter coefficient of the at least one adaptive filter,” it is clear from the description above that Haneda does not anticipate “updating at least one filter coefficient... *in response to the at least one power value and the at least one error signal.*” In fact, the abstract and col. 9, line 30-60 of Haneda do not even mention an error signal, much less “at least one update control means for updating at least one filter coefficient of the at least one adaptive filter in response to the at least one power value and the at least one error signal,” as claimed in claim 1.

Further, claim 1 of the present invention claims, *inter alia*, “at least one subtraction means for generating at least one error signal by subtracting the at least one echo signal from the speech signals.” That is, claim 1 essentially states that the subtraction means generates the error signal. On the other hand, the error signals described in Haneda are “output from the adaptive filters 75-p and the Fg/BG filters 76-j and 76-k” (col. 10, lines 27-36).

Claim 7 claims, *inter alia*, “a selective means for generating at least one selective signal in response to the at least one power value of the speech signals.” Claim 7 further claims, *inter alia*, “at least one update control means for updating at least one filter coefficient of the at least one adaptive filter *when the at least one selective signal provide from the selective means is activated.*” To anticipate the above-quoted portions of Claim 7, the Office Action cites the abstract, col. 8, lines 34-59, and col. 9, lines 30-60. The Office Action argues that the “adaptive operation control part” anticipates “a selection means,” as claimed in claim 1. Haneda states that “the adaptive operation control part 78

applies adaptation condition signal ADP to all adaptive filters..." (col. 9, lines 32-34).

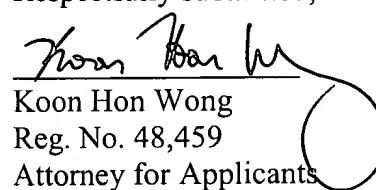
It is clear from the quoted portion that the adaptive operation control part of Haneda "applies" ADP to adaptive filters and does not "generate at least one selective signal," much less "generate at least one selective signal *in response to the at least one power value* of the speech signals." Because Haneda does not "generate at least one a selective signal," it follows that Haneda cannot provide "at least one update control at least one update control means for updating at least one filter coefficient of the at least one adaptive filter *when the at least one selective signal...is activated.*"

Accordingly, claims 1 and 7 are believed to be patentably distinguishable over Haneda. Dependent claims 2-5 and 8-11 are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons given for claims 1 and 7. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-5 and 7-11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(b) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all the claims now pending in the application are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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